



CHAPTER VI



PARKS, OPEN SPACE, RECREATION & TRAILS



"WHAT ARTIST SO NOBLE AS HE WHO, WITH FAR REACHING CONCEPTION OF BEAUTY, IN DESIGNING POWER, SKETCHES THE OUTLINES, WRITES THE COLORS, AND DIRECTS THE SHADOWS OF A PICTURE SO GREAT THAT NATURE SHALL BE EMPLOYED UPON IT FOR GENERATIONS, BEFORE THE WORK HE ARRANGED FOR HER SHALL REALIZE HIS INTENTIONS"

Frederick Law Olmsted – Father of Modern Landscape Architecture 1822-1903

Taylorsville residents value outdoor recreational activities. Residents expect local government to provide recreational amenities and programs to facilitate enjoyment of an outdoor lifestyle. To reflect this value, the City will provide, improve and maintain parks, open spaces, trails and a variety of recreational facilities and programs in order to promote a high quality of life for its residents.

Introduction

Parks and open spaces play a major role in defining the quality of life within a community. Taylorsville residents desire an active, outdoor lifestyle that will promote a healthy community. Additionally, outdoor spaces are vital to building a strong sense of community spirit as they provide gathering places and opportunities for all residents to associate and socialize together. Without adequate opportunities for outdoor activities and recreational programs, residents can become isolated and disenfranchised from their community.

There are four (4) primary planning issues for Taylorsville related to parks, open space, recreation, and trails:

- Type of facilities;
- Location of parks, open spaces, recreation facilities, and trails facilities;
- Access to facilities (i.e. ease of access and availability of facility); and



- Level of service of facilities (i.e. amenities provided, adequacy of improvements, maintenance of facilities, and availability of recreational programs).

Parks, Open Space, Recreation and Trail Needs

The City of Taylorsville has been committed to acquiring and developing additional park space within the City. Since incorporation, the City has developed nearly 40 acres of park space increasing the overall improved park area in the City by nearly 20% in just eight years. The City has also improved portions of the Jordan River Parkway and partnered with Salt Lake County in the construction of the Taylorsville Recreation Center. Even so, the level of service for existing parks, open space, and trails is below that recommended by national organizations such as the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) (refer to national standards in figure 6.0.1). Although Taylorsville is not required to meet national park planning standards, the City should continue to provide more parks, open spaces, and trails for the community by identifying the location of future parks, open spaces, and trails and including the types of amenities that will insure the utilization of the parks, open spaces, and trails.

The Parks, Open Space, Recreation and Trails goals and associated implementation actions were identified during extensive community discussion involving the Taylorsville General Plan Steering Committee, Planning Commission, City Council, residents, and others. For the City of Taylorsville, it is not sufficient that additional parks, open spaces, and trails be provided. The City desires that all public spaces are fully utilized and function to meet the needs of its residents. Underutilization of expensive park, open space, trail, and other recreational facilities may potentially affect the City's willingness to invest in additional facilities. Therefore, not only is it necessary to provide facilities but it is also necessary that the City promote and encourage use of these facilities.

The Taylorsville City Leisure Activity, Recreation and Parks Committee (LARP), acting under the direction of the Taylorsville City Council, also encourage the full utilization of all public spaces. To accomplish this objective, the LARP Committee can participate in strengthening existing recreational events and creating new events and activities to bring the community together in the enjoyment of parks, open space, and trail facilities.

Additionally, community assets and events such as the annual Taylorsville Dayzz celebration can provide opportunities for people to use and enjoy all public areas. For example, the City could sponsor an Easter egg hunt at City Center, "fun runs" on a trail system, and scavenger hunts at a community park. These activities will get citizens out of their homes and enjoying the public spaces of the community and building community associations and pride.

Parks, Open Space, Recreation, and Trails Mission Statement

Taylorsville City will provide and maintain a diversity of parks, open spaces, recreational opportunities and trails dispersed throughout the City to help provide for the health and enjoyment of the community.



Parks, Open Space, Recreation and Trails

Chapter 6 Final DRAFT

Parks, Open Space, Recreation and Trails Goals

- 6.1 Improve park utilization by providing high quality parks distributed evenly throughout the community.
- 6.2 Provide desirable open space to enhance quality of life for Taylorsville Residents.
- 6.3 Ensure that adequate levels of recreational opportunities are provided for Taylorsville residents.
- 6.4 Develop an urban trails system.

6.1 Parks

Goal 6-1: Improve park utilization by providing high quality parks distributed evenly throughout the community.

Taylorsville parks are generally developed areas that include amenities such as picnic tables, playground equipment, trash receptacles, restrooms, and drinking fountains in addition to lawn and trees.

Currently there are 11 parks located within Taylorsville with an approximate total of 230.3 acres. Illustration 6.1.1 identifies the name, size and type of parks in Taylorsville.

Park areas typically include facilities and amenities to allow park areas to be used for sports, exercise, and other active pastimes. For example, activities such as playing team sports, or enjoying a family picnic would typically occur in a park setting.

Parks located within Taylorsville are categorized into four (4) types:

- Mini Parks are located immediately adjacent or within neighborhoods and vary in size. Mini parks are often simple green spaces with few (if any) amenities. A mini park may be a grassed detention basin or a recreational amenity in a private development. Historically, mini parks have not been encouraged by the City due to the perceived high cost of maintenance versus value to the community.
- Neighborhood Parks are generally used by residents whom reside within one (1) mile of the park. Naturally occurring or man-made barriers including highways and major roads often determine the area served by a neighborhood park.
- Community Parks are generally larger and have more active recreation amenities than neighborhood parks. Community parks may include sporting fields and other special purpose facilities like swimming pools.
- Regional Parks are designed to serve a region that extends beyond the boundaries of the City. Valley Regional Park on 2700 West, for example, serves a large portion of the western County and features the

Parks, Open Space, Recreation and Trails

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Taylorsville Recreation Center, two softball complexes, a library and an outdoor swimming facility.

Park Name	Size (acres)	Type
Valley Regional Park 5150 South 2700 West	91.4	Regional
Southridge Community Park 5100 South 4015 West	39.8	Community
Vista Park 5000 South	28.1	Community
Millrace Park 1181 West 5400 South	23.2	Community
Taylorsville Park 4750 South Redwood Road	14.3	Neighborhood
Jordan River Preserve 850 West 4880 South	10.4	Open Space
Jordan River Parkway 600 West 4800 South-	9.3	Regional
UP&L Corridor Trail Head 951 West 4800 South	8.4	Neighborhood
Bennion Park 5620 South 3200 West	4.2	Neighborhood
Autumn Meadows Park 5390 South 2350 West	0.8	Mini-park
Azure Meadows Park 6055 South 3885 West	0.4	Mini-park
Total Acreage	230.3	

Parks provide different recreational opportunities to residents of different ages. Children may use a park to run and play while senior citizens may stroll and relax in a park and enjoy the outdoors. Parks should provide improvements necessary to meet the needs of all citizens and be readily available and accessible. Parks must be well designed, safe, and well-maintained to add quality and attractiveness to the area in which they are located.

Residents have expressed concern that existing park areas are not well-maintained or lack the facilities and improvements necessary to allow parks to be used for a variety of active recreational pursuits. Some City parks only provide grassed areas, which do not provide sufficient amenities for the neighborhood. Parks must provide amenities that are well-maintained in order to qualify as a desirable asset for the community.

Illustration 6.1.1:
Parks in
Taylorsville City

Map 6.1-1 shows that park space and recreational facilities in Taylorsville aren't suitably dispersed with most amenities being located in the north, central and eastern portions of the City. In order to provide appropriate levels of park space uniformly throughout the city it is recommended that the community establish significant new park improvements in the south, southwest, or southeast portion of the City. Taylorsville should also provide parks in neighborhoods that have convenient and safe access. The City must explore all options and opportunities to provide additional parks, open space areas, and trails for its citizens.

PORT Objective 6.1.1: Provide more park space in underserved areas of the City and increase the functionality and accessibility of all parks.

Action Statements:

AS-6.1.1(a): Identify all options to retain meaningful open space areas and preserve them for future recreational spaces.

AS-6.1.1(b): Identity all City owned property that could be developed into additional park space and assess suitability of potential spaces in addressing park space shortages within the City.

AS-6.1.1(c): Consider and evaluate the value of small “pocket parks” that can improve the level of attractiveness and availability of amenities in residential and commercial areas.

AS-6.1.1(d): Involve youth in identifying the recreational needs of the young and develop specific facilities to meet those needs.

AS-6.1.1(e): Establish a new community park in the south, southwest, and /or southeast section of the City.

Best Practice Policies:

P-6.1.1 (a): Create and install uniform signage and other design features for all parks in Taylorsville

Proper and responsive maintenance and repair of all City parks, recreational facilities, and associated improvements will encourage the full use of such facilities and provide a safe and pleasant environment for Taylorsville residents to play and relax.

PORT Objective 6.1.2: Develop, maintain, and publicize park areas to the highest standards feasible to encourage their use and enjoyment by all residents.

Action Statements:

AS-6.1.2 (a): Improve and maintain all park facilities and open space areas to the highest standards possible.

AS-6.1.2 (b): Provide the necessary facilities and amenities in existing parks to promote increased use.

AS-6.1.2 (c): Include public art in City parks that display the history, character, culture, and uniqueness of Taylorsville.

AS-6.1.2 (d): Evaluate the feasibility of Taylorsville City taking responsibility for improvement, maintenance, and operation from Salt Lake County for park and open space areas.

AS-6.1.2 (e): Support and sponsor local sports organizations to encourage citizen involvement and healthy life-style choices for City residents.

AS-6.1.2 (f): Evaluate the potential for an amphitheater in association with the Taylorsville Recreation Center, Park Library, City Center or other location within the City.

AS-6.1.2 (g): Nurture the children and youth of the City by providing recreational programs that meet their needs.

PORT Objective 6.1.3: Assure adequate utilization of all parks, open space, recreation facilities, and trails.

Action Statements:

AS-6.1.3 (a): Utilize the abilities and talents of the Leisure Activity, Recreation, and Parks Committee to encourage a full utilization and benefit of all existing and future community spaces.

AS-6.1.3 (b): Develop role of an event and activities coordinator to promote park and recreational activities and provide opportunities for community gatherings.

AS-6.1.3 (c): Formulate a “marketing plan” for City-provided recreational areas and facilities.

6.2 Open Space

Goal 6-2: Provide Quality Open Space to Enhance Quality of Life for Taylorsville Residents.

Open spaces within the community are those areas that typically are not improved with “active” recreational facilities but may include pedestrian and biking trails and natural vegetation. Open spaces are reserved from future residential and commercial development but may be transitioned into more traditional park spaces in the future. Traditional open space areas provide relief from the built environment and allow residents to experience the natural environment within the community. Open spaces also provide an opportunity to view wildlife in their natural habitat and protect natural resources. An example of open space is along the Jordan River, adjacent to the Jordan River Parkway.

The majority of the remaining open space areas in Taylorsville City are located in proximity to the Jordan River. The environs of the Jordan River provide a unique feature and natural asset for the City. The Jordan River and its environs provide a variety of recreational opportunities, including walking, canoeing, bird watching, fishing, and biking. Because the Jordan River is a water course of federal, state, regional, and local importance a number of governmental agencies have jurisdictional authority for the River and its immediate area, requiring close coordination by Taylorsville City with other governmental units to realize the full amenities of the Jordan River for the City.

PORT Objective 6.2.1: Preserve open space.

Action Statements:

AS-6.2.1 (a): Inventory all existing open spaces within the City. Identify future opportunities to acquire or preserve available open space.

AS-6.2.1 (b): Develop a long-term master plan for open space preservation within the City. Plans should include remediation and restoration efforts needed for poor-quality open spaces.

Best Practice Policies:

P-6.2.1 (a): Require a minimum 100' no build natural buffer for all developments adjacent to the Jordan River.

6.3 Recreation

Goal 6-3: Ensure that Desirable Levels of Recreational Opportunities are Provided for Taylorsville Residents.

Recreation as an element of this chapter refers to programs and opportunities for recreation within the City. The Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Department and other private entities such as Babe Ruth League (baseball) or the Utah Youth Soccer Association (UYSA) administrate most formal recreational programs within the City. Other recreational opportunities occur less formally within the City, such as walking or jogging along the Jordan River Trail or participating in an informal game in a City park.

The purpose of this section is to identify City efforts that can result in:

- Providing additional opportunities for recreation;
- Promoting full use of City recreational facilities; and
- Providing the opportunity for the community to live a healthy lifestyle



Illustration 6.3.1:
The Taylorsville
Recreation Center

PORT Objective 6.3.1: Promote recreation in the City.

Action Statements:

AS-6.3.1 (a): Identify new recreational activities not currently available within the City that may be feasibly offered through public or private entities.

AS-6.3.1 (b): Identify existing recreational activities that are underserved or warrant additional resources based on community preferences.

AS-6.3.1 (c): Identify funding sources that will enable development of additional recreational programs and amenities.

AS-6.3.1 (d): Create a "clearing house" of information on recreational opportunities within the City.

AS-6.3.1 (e): Develop and maintain City's "Parks and Recreation" web site.

AS-6.3.1 (f): Improve advertisement of recreational events occurring within the City. Coordinate with Salt Lake County Parks &



Recreation Department promotions of County sponsored recreational events.

Baseball has a long and important role in the fabric of Taylorsville City. As previously identified in Chapter 2, Community Identity, Taylorsville City wishes to promote and enhance the image of the City as a baseball center. To achieve the related goals of Chapter 2, and the goals of this Chapter the City will support and provide necessary facilities to support and encourage baseball and softball programs for all age groups. Improving the fields, sponsoring teams, and hosting local, regional, and national tournaments are all activities worthy of consideration for direct City involvement or support.

6.4 Trails

Goal 6-4: Develop an Urban Trail System.

Walking and biking trails provide an opportunity for all residents to be active and enjoy their community. However, few convenient and easily accessible trail routes exist in Taylorsville. Almost exclusively all walking and biking occurs on City street rights-of-way. These areas are heavily traveled by motorized vehicles and are not the most desirable or safe environment for walking or biking. If sidewalks are provided on City streets, they are typically located close or immediately adjacent to roadways. Sidewalks are often insufficient and uninviting and do not allow pedestrians to enjoy the experience of their surroundings. Many communities across the nation understand that safe pedestrian paths and dedicated bicycling routes are an important part of the overall transportation system and increase the quality of life for residents, provide a healthy lifestyle choice, as well as promote community character and identity.

The primary trail system within the City is adjacent to the Jordan River, which is located along the eastern border of the City. Land located immediately adjacent to the river provides opportunities for open space and trail routes for Taylorsville residents. Significant portions of the “Jordan River Parkway” have already been preserved and protected to provide open space and trail amenities. Taylorsville City must commit to preserving open space as an amenity associated with the Jordan River and provide required trail and open space connections to other portions of the Parkway. Working closely with Salt Lake County and other adjacent communities, Taylorsville can ensure the Jordan River Parkway provides a real quality of life benefit for its residents.

The Jordan River Parkway should be the centerpiece of an extensive trail system in Taylorsville. Utility corridors and irrigation canals can provide additional locations for the installation of walking and biking trails, which could connect to the Jordan River Parkway. Existing trails within the City should also be linked together to produce a trail network that would encourage residents to get out of their cars and enjoy the City. The trail system could also provide important pedestrian and bicycle routes to some of the major destinations within the community, including Salt Lake Community College, City Center, Taylorsville Recreation Center, Park Library, Sorenson Research Park and Taylorsville public schools.

Unfortunately, the implementation of a trails master plan is often a very difficult undertaking.

Frequently areas that are prime locations for trails such as utility and canal corridors are on private property

and pedestrians are sometimes unwanted visitors because of liability and maintenance concerns. Consequently, simply drawing lines on a map with little thought towards implementation is not a good strategy in trails development. Instead, a more desirable strategy would be to utilize public lands and work with private property owners to develop a comprehensive implementable trial system.

PORT Objective 6.4.1: Create a new Trails Master Plan that will be adopted as an addendum to the Taylorsville General Plan.

Action Statements:

AS-6.4.1(a): Identify goals and objectives relative to development of a trail master plan.

AS-6.4.1(b): Evaluate existing Trail Master Plan for adequacy and feasibility. Identify strengths and weaknesses of existing plan.

AS-6.4.1(c): Identify existing linkages and possible connections to open space and park areas, realizing that dedicated linkages may not be possible in every location. Trails should be interconnected with parks, open spaces, and schools within the City.



Illustration 6.4.1:
Jordan River
Parkway Pedestrian
Bridge at Millrace
Park

AS-6.4.1(d): Work with utility and canal companies to utilize existing rights-of-way (utility and canal) to integrate a trail system along the existing canals and utility corridors.

AS-6.4.1(e): Evaluate the potential for using the wide park strips on 4000 West Street as a pedestrian trail.

AS-6.4.1(f): Adopt amended Trail Master Plan as an element of the General Plan.

AS-6.4.1(g): Coordinate the implementation of the Trails Master Plan with other chapters (Community Identity, Transportation, etc.) of the Taylorsville General Plan.

AS-6.4.1(h): Implement and regularly update the Trails Master Plan.

Best Practice Policies:

P-6.4.1(a): Require pedestrian linkages, as applicable, in all new development.

P-6.4.1(b): Provide pedestrian amenities, such as garbage cans, benches, bicycle racks and lighting for new trail development.

P-6.4.1(c): Coordinate all trail issues with the Transportation element of the plan.